

PRESS RELEASE



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Idaho Arbor Day Poster Contest Winner Advances to National Competition

(Boise...April 18) MaKayla Greene, a fifth-grade student at Big Valley elementary in Rupert is the Idaho state winner in the 2006 Arbor Day Poster Contest.

Greene's entry was selected by a panel of judges from the Idaho Forest Products Commission (IFPC) and the Idaho Department of Lands (IDL), co-sponsors of the contest. This year students were asked to create a poster reflecting the theme: "Trees are Terrific...in all Shapes and Sizes!" Teachers used accompanying materials to educate students about the theme and the importance of planting and caring for trees.

Fifth-grade students from across Idaho participated in the contest this year. As the state winner, Greene will receive a \$200 US Savings Bond. A tree will be planted in her honor at the Capitol during the State Arbor Day celebration on April 27th, and a stone marker noting her achievement will be set at its base. A tree will also be donated on her behalf for planting at her school, courtesy of the Idaho Nursery and Landscape Association and a local nursery. Greene's award-winning artwork will be printed as a poster and used to promote Arbor Day in 2007. Additionally, her teacher Mrs. Melodie Wysong will receive \$100 in cash for classroom supplies. Prize money and poster reproduction is sponsored by revenues from Idaho Forestry License Plates, which support reforestation efforts and educational projects such as the poster contest.

As Idaho's state winner, Greene is now entered in the national contest which is sponsored by The National Arbor Day Foundation and Toyota Motor Corporation.

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“This contest offers students throughout Idaho the chance to creatively express important messages regarding trees, one of our most valuable natural resources,” said Winston Wiggins, Idaho State Forester and Director of the IDL. “Students like MaKayla Greene learn how trees are of value to us and the environment, and the critical role diversity plays in a healthy forest.” IFPC Director Betty Munis noted, “The Idaho Forest Products Commission is delighted to be a sponsor of the Arbor Day Poster Contest. The beautiful posters we receive from throughout the state show us that these young artists recognize the importance of trees and forests.”

In addition to Greene, Kody Duclos, from Prairie Middle School in Cottonwood was selected as second place state winner and Sarah Fenenbock, from Prairie View Elementary in Post Falls, took third. Duclos will receive a \$150 bond and Fenenbock will receive a \$100 bond. Trees will be donated on their behalf to be planted at their schools. Their teachers will also receive \$100 for classroom supplies. The competition was so close this year, Bailey Woodbury (Mackay), Emily Son (Post Falls), and Olivia Heisey (Coeur d’Alene) were awarded Honorable Mentions and received t-shirts.

Pictures of the winning posters can be viewed at www.idl.idaho.gov (click on community forestry, then Arbor Day at the top of the page). Copies of the poster will be available through the Idaho Forest Products Commission later this year. You can also learn more about Arbor Day and Idaho forests at www.idahoforests.org.

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